

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Silbermann for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of November 16, 2005. During that interview, the teachings of Rethmeier U.S. Patent No. 3,546,798 were discussed, particularly with respect to the fact that Rethmeier teaches conventional perforated hangtags in which the connected portion of the hangtag edges is greater than the portion of the hangtag edges that is unconnected. In applicant's invention, the reverse is true, that is, the connected portion of the hangtag edges is less than the spaced portion. Although that structural difference was acknowledged, it was not believed that the language of the existing claims did not adequately distinguished over the reference, particularly because of the use of the term "substantially."

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 17 have now been amended to explicitly state that the connected portion of the hangtag edges is less than the spaced portion of the hangtag edges. That structure permits the hangtags to be separated by a perpendicular pull force (claim 1) and by a force less than required to tear the hangtag body (claim 17).

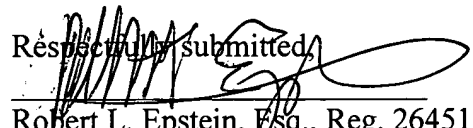
In each claim, the term "substantially" has been deleted.

Claims 32-37 have been added to further restrict the limitation inserted into the main claim from which each depends.

Claims 5-14 and 20-27 have been cancelled.

A Request for Continued Examination is hereby presented, along with the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,


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